

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for the treatment of pigmentation disorders comprising:  
  
hydroquinone; and  
  
a cationic salt of acidic ascorbyl esters,  
  
said composition having a pH of about 5.5 to about 8.0.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pH is about 5.5 to about 7.5.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pH is about 6.0 to about 7.5.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 1 to about 12 %.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 10 %.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 8 %.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 3 to about 4 %.
8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4%.
9. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a water-soluble antioxidant.
10. The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises a sulfite.
11. The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite.
12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05%.

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present at about 0.05% to about 0.5%.
14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises an inorganic salt.
15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
16. The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.1%.
17. The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 3%.
18. The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 1%.
19. The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite and the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
20. The composition of claim 19 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05% and the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.5%.
21. The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises an amino acyl derivative.
22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the cationic salt comprises aminopropyl ascorbyl phosphate.
23. The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises a sodium ascorbyl phosphate.
24. A skin benefit composition comprising:
  - hydroquinone;
  - a cationic salt of acidic ascorbyl esters, and

a protected retinoid,

said composition having a pH of about 5.5 to about 8.0.

25. The composition of claim 24 wherein the pH is about 5.5 to about 7.5.
26. The composition of claim 24 wherein the pH is about 6.0 to about 7.5.
27. The composition of claim 24 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 1 to about 12 %.
28. The composition of claim 24 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 10 %.
29. The composition of claim 24 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 8 %.
30. The composition of claim 24 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 3 to about 4 %.
31. The composition of claim 24 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4%.
32. The composition of claim 24 further comprising a water-soluble antioxidant.
33. The composition of claim 32 wherein the antioxidant comprises a sulfite.
34. The composition of claim 33 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite.
35. The composition of claim 34 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05%.
36. The composition of 34 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present at about 0.05% to about 0.5%.
37. The composition of claim 24 wherein the cationic salt comprises an inorganic salt.

38. The composition of claim 24 wherein the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
39. The composition of claim 38 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.1%.
40. The composition of claim 38 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 3%.
41. The composition of claim 38 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 1%.
42. The composition of claim 32 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite and the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
43. The composition of claim 42 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05% and the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.5%.
44. The composition of claim 24 wherein the cationic salt comprises an amino acyl derivative.
45. The composition of claim 44 wherein the cationic salt comprises aminopropyl ascorbyl phosphate.
46. The composition of claim 24 wherein the cationic salt comprises a sodium ascorbyl phosphate.
47. The composition of claim 24 wherein the protected retinoid is protected with a protective system.
48. The composition of claim 24 wherein the protected retinoid comprises at least one of the group consisting of retinoic acid, retinol, retinal, retinoid analogues, isotretinoin and its isomers.
49. The composition of claim 24 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.01% to about 5.0%.

50. The composition of claim 24 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.025% to about 2.0%.
51. The composition of claim 24 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.05% to about 1.0%.
52. The composition of claim 24 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.025% to about 0.5%.
53. A composition for the treatment of pigmentation disorders, said composition having a neutral pH, comprising:
- 4 % hydroquinone;
  - at least about 0.5% magnesium ascorbyl phosphate;
  - at least about 0.1% Sodium metabisulfite; and
  - an protected retinoid.
54. A method of stabilizing a hydroquinone composition having a pH of about 5.5 to about 8.0 comprising:
- Adding a cationic salt of acidic ascorbyl esters.
55. The method of claim 54 wherein the pH is about 5.5 to about 7.5.
56. The method of claim 54 wherein the pH is about 6.0 to about 7.5.
57. The method of claim 54 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 1 to about 12 %.
58. The method of claim 54 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 10 %.
59. The method of claim 54 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 8 %.

- 60. The method of claim 54 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 3 to about 4 %.
- 61. The method of claim 54 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4 %.
- 62. The method of claim 54 further comprising a water-soluble antioxidant.
- 63. The method of claim 62 wherein the antioxidant comprises sulfite.
- 64. The method of claim 62 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite.
- 65. The method of claim 64 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05%.
- 66. The method of claim 64 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present at about 0.05% to about 0.5%.
- 67. The method of claim 54 wherein the cationic salt comprises an inorganic salt.
- 68. The method of claim 54 wherein the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
- 69. The method of claim 68 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.1%.
- 70. The method of claim 68 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 3%.
- 71. The method of claim 68 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 1%.
- 72. The method of claim 62 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite and the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
- 73. The method of claim 72 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05% and the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.5%.

74. The method of claim 54 wherein the cationic salt comprises an amino acyl derivative.
75. The method of claim 74 wherein the cationic salt comprises aminopropyl ascorbyl phosphate.
76. The method of claim 54 wherein the cationic salt comprises a sodium ascorbyl phosphate.
77. A method of stabilizing a hydroquinone composition having a pH of about 5.5 to about 8.0 comprising:
- adding a cationic salt of acidic ascorbyl esters; and
- adding an protected retinoid.
78. The method of claim 81 wherein the pH is about 5.5 to about 7.5.
79. The method of claim 77 wherein the pH is about 6.0 to about 7.5.
80. The method of claim 77 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 1 to about 12 %.
81. The method of claim 77 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 10%.
82. The method of claim 77 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 8 %.
83. The method of claim 77 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 3 to about 4 %.
84. The method of claim 77 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4 %.
85. The method of claim 77 further comprising a water-soluble antioxidant.
86. The method of claim 85 wherein the antioxidant comprises sulfite.
87. The method of claim 86 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite.

88. The method of claim 87 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05%.
89. The method of claim 87 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present at about 0.05% to about 0.5%.
90. The method of claim 77 wherein the cationic salt comprises an inorganic salt.
91. The method of claim 77 wherein the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
92. The method of claim 91 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.1%.
93. The method of claim 91 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 3%.
94. The method of claim 91 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 1%.
95. The method of claim 85 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite and the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
96. The method of claim 95 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05% and the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.5%.
97. The method of claim 77 wherein the cationic salt comprises an amino acyl derivative.
98. The method of claim 97 wherein the cationic salt comprises aminopropyl ascorbyl phosphate.
99. The method of claim 77 wherein the cationic salt comprises a sodium ascorbyl phosphate.
100. The method of claim 77 wherein the protected retinoid is protected with a protective system.



101. The method of claim 77 wherein the protected retinoid comprises at least one of the group consisting of retinoic acid, retinol, retinal, retinoid analogues, isotretinoin and its isomers.
102. The method of claim 77 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.01% to about 5.0%.
103. The method of claim 77 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.025% to about 2.0%.
104. The method of claim 77 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.05% to about 1.0%.
105. The method of claim 77 wherein the retinoid is present from about 0.025% to about 0.5%.
106. The process of making a stable hydroquinone composition having a pH of about 5.5 to about 8.0 comprising:
- combining the following ingredients, in a carbon dioxide atmosphere:
- first, magnesium ascorbyl phosphate and sodium metabisulfite, then
- second, sodium metabisulfite, then
- third, magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, then
- fourth, hydroquinone; and
- wherein said ingredients are contained in suitable dermatologically acceptable carriers.